

Ref

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 196

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a type species for the genus *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Gastropoda) in harmony with accustomed usage



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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OPINION 196

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF
A TYPE SPECIES FOR THE GENUS "BULLA"
LINNAEUS, 1758 (CLASS GASTROPODA)
IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED
USAGE

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers all selections of type species for the genus *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Gastropoda) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside and *Bulla ampulla* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing nominal genus. (2) The name *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender of name: feminine), with the type species designated in (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 627. (3) The specific name *ampulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the combination *Bulla ampulla*) is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 2.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 23rd May 1945 the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature received from Dr. Joshua L. Baily, Jr. (*Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, U.S.A.*) a letter dated 6th April 1945, in which Dr. Baily raised two questions, the first concerned with the type species of the genus *Venus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Pelecypoda), the second with the type species of the genus *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Gastropoda). These two problems were given separate Registered Numbers, the first being assigned the number Z.N.(S.)189, the second the Number Z.N.(S.)190. Thereafter these two problems were treated as constituting separate applications. The first of these cases has now been dealt with in *Opinion* 195, and the present *Opinion* is concerned only with the name *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758. The following is an extract from the part of Dr. Baily's letter which is concerned with the present case.

Please give me the benefit of your assistance on the following cases.

2. *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758

According to Dr. Harold E. Rehder of the U.S. National Museum, the original type of this genus is *Bulla naucum* Linnaeus, following Article 30, Rule (d) and *Opinions* 16 and 55. Linnaeus gives as reference "Rumph. mus. t. 27 f. h. *Bulla*".

In a letter to me, Dr. Rehder states as follows :

"Referring to Rumphius we find that he used 'Bulla' as a specific name, including under it three forms, to one of which, Linné, quite properly restricted it, citing it under *Bulla naucum* in the sense of 'the Bulla'. We have therefore a parallel to cases cited in the opinions above, and the designation of *Bulla naucum* as type is valid".

The trouble with this designation is that it has been completely ignored by all subsequent writers, and *Bulla naucum* has always been considered the type of *Atyis* Montfort, and *Bulla* has always been used for the group typified by *Bulla ampulla*.

If the International Commission should suspend the type designation of *Bulla naucum* the next designation was by Montfort, 1810 (*Conch. Syst.* 2 : 330—2), who chose *Bulla ampulla* as type. Some writers have questioned the validity of this designation on the ground that Montfort called the genus "Bullus". If Montfort intended to establish a new genus, as may have been his intention, his designation of a type for *Bullus* cannot be construed as designation of a type for *Bulla*, but if he was merely emending the name so that *Bullus* and *Bulla* are synonyms, the first type designation for either one becomes the type of both, and in this case Montfort's designation of *Bulla ampulla* will hold. Among my acquaintances there is divergency of opinion on this point.

If the International Commission should decide that Montfort's designation is not valid, the next designation is that of Children 1823 (*Quart. J. Sci. Lit. Arts* 5 : 232), who chose *Bulla lignaria* Linnaeus, which species had already been made the type of *Scaphander* Montfort, 1810 (*loc. cit.*) by Montfort himself, and all subsequent writers have followed this practice.

To accept as type of *Bulla* either *Bulla naucum* or *Bulla lignaria* would necessitate the shifting of the name *Bulla* from a group for which it has been universally used (even if wrongly) to a group which has long been known by a different name and cannot result in anything but confusion at first. But if such a change must be made, it can best be done after the International Commission has issued an *Opinion*.

In view of the foregoing data I would request that you exercise your plenary powers to suspend the Rules and declare the type of *Bulla* to be *Bulla ampulla*. Such a course would not only avoid the confusion that would result from the shifting of a familiar name, but it would make *Bulla* and *Bullus* identical synonyms and so preclude the possibility of having two genera, *Bulla* and *Bullus*, and consequently two families called BULLIDAE within the same Sub-Order.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. On receipt of this application, Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, placed the following Minute on the File :—

Dr. Baily in his application is concerned only with the name *Bulla* as used by Linnaeus (1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 725) for a genus of Gastropoda and makes no mention of Linnaeus' earlier use in the same volume (: 427) of the term *Bulla* for a subdivision of the genus *Gryllus* Linnaeus (: 425) (Class Insecta, Order Orthoptera).

In so acting, Dr. Baily is perfectly correct, but, as it is likely that in the discussion of the Gastropod name *Bulla*, reference may be made to the earlier Orthopterid *Bulla*, it seems desirable that the position in this matter should be placed on record as follows : In different parts of the Tenth Edition of the *Systema Naturae* Linnaeus divided genera into named sections. On the whole, these names have been ignored by most subsequent authors, though certain of these names (e.g. *Mantis*, *Locusta*) have been universally accepted. This lack of uniformity sprang largely from doubts among systematists on the question whether Linnaeus intended that the terms which he applied to these sections should be regarded as names, having regard to the fact that the publication of the Tenth Edition of the *Systema Naturae* long preceded the formulation of the concept of the sub-genus. In the year 1928, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature was asked for a formal ruling on the question whether the terms under consideration were to be accepted as being names of sub-generic status as from Linnaeus, 1758. This question was answered in the negative by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in its *Opinion* 124 published in October 1936 (*Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 8 : 1—2). In this *Opinion*, the Commission expressly cited, as an example, the double use made by Linnaeus of the word *Bulla*, pointing out that under the ruling then given the earlier of these uses (in the Orthopterous genus *Gryllus*) was invalid, and therefore that the name *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758, in the Phylum Mollusca was an available name.

3. As the next step, Mr. Hemming consulted the late Mr. R. Winckworth (*London*) who, on 15th December 1945, replied as follows, strongly supporting the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating *Bulla ampulla* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type species of the genus *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758 :—

It may be noted that both *Bulla ampulla* L. and *B. naucum* L. have references to Rumph's figures (27G and 27H) and that both of these are called "Bulla" by Rumph, though Linnaeus only quotes the word *Bulla* from Rumph under *B. naucum*, which precedes *B. ampulla* in Linnaeus, but is the second kind (tweede Sort) of *Bulla* in Rumph.

It would be disastrous to disturb the almost unbroken tradition of binominal literature, which associates *Bulla* with the group typified by *B. ampulla*, by accepting *B. naucum* as type. I strongly support the proposal to place *Bulla* L., 1758 on the Official List with *B. ampulla* L. as type.

4. On 14th November 1947 notice of the possible use, by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, of its Plenary Powers in this case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objections to the action proposed.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

5. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Eleventh Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 0930 hours. The following is an extract from the portion of the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission setting out the decision reached by it in regard to this case at the foregoing meeting (12th Meeting, Conclusion 29 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 305) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) to use their plenary powers to set aside all selections of the type species of the genus *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Gastropoda, Order Bullomorpha), made prior to the present decision and to designate *Bulla ampulla* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of this genus ;
- (2) to place the generic name *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (type species : *Bulla ampulla* Linnaeus, 1758), on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

- (3) to place the specific trivial name *ampulla* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Bulla ampulla*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) to render an *Opinion* setting out the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

6. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the decision quoted in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

Ampulla, *Bulla*, Linnaeus, 1758, *ibid.* (ed. 10) 1 : 727

Bulla Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 725

7. The gender of the generic name *Bulla* Linnaeus, 1758, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 5 is feminine.

8. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Third Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 94).

9. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

10. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

11. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion

of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and the *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

12. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

13. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion One Hundred and Ninety-Six* (196) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Ninth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING